

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES C. COOK, SR.  
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Charles C. Cook, Sr., for his 36 years of exemplary service at the U.S. Government Printing Office, GPO.

Charlie came to the GPO in November 1969 and was assigned as a Compositor in the Monotype Section. In 1978, he was promoted to the position of Printing Specialist in the Composing Division, Office of Superintendent. In June 1979, Charlie was reassigned to the Customer Service Department, Congressional Information Division. It was here that Charlie truly honed his skills serving GPO's congressional customers. Over the years, Charlie worked closely with Senate and House committee staff, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and the Capitol Police on numerous projects. One of the most prestigious of these projects was the Presidential Inauguration. Charlie coordinated all the printing requirements for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the four inaugurations from 1989 to 2001.

In 1993, Charlie was promoted to Superintendent, Congressional Printing Management Division, and in 2004, he was called on by the Public Printer of the United States to serve as Strategic Marketing Officer. He has served in that capacity until his retirement.

On behalf of the entire Congressional community, I extend congratulations to Charlie for his many years of exemplary service to the GPO and the Congress. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
BARBARA BYRD BENNETT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Barbara Byrd Bennett, upon the occasion of her retirement that follows seven years of steadfast service and commitment as Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Municipal School District.

Ms. Bennett was born and raised in Harlem and was educated in the public school system. She graduated high school early at age 16 and earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in English from Long Island University at age 19. She earned two Masters degrees, was a Penn Fellow at Columbia University during her doctoral studies and holds several honorary doctoral degrees. Ms. Bennett was an adjunct professor at several New York City universities

and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Cleveland State University.

Her life long professional focus on improving the state of struggling urban school districts is evidenced throughout her profession. Her career in education began in her hometown of New York City, where she taught at the elementary and high school levels. She later served as a school principal and District Administrator and served twice as Superintendent of two of the lowest performing school districts in New York City, Chancellor's District and Crown Heights District in Brooklyn. Her leadership is credited with dramatically improving academic achievement in both of those districts.

Ms. Bennett's tenure in Cleveland parallels that of her work in New York. Chosen as Superintendent of the Cleveland Municipal School District in 1998, she began the monumental task of lifting the Cleveland School District out of its decades-old state of failure and despair. During her tenure, Ms. Bennett implemented policies and programs that served to raise the grade throughout the system, including academic performance, financial stability and the restoration of school classrooms and buildings. Additionally, Ms. Bennett forged vital partnerships with parents, teachers and local and state leaders, thereby fostering an atmosphere of achievement and renewal through a unified effort.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Superintendent Barbara Byrd Bennett, whose leadership, dedication and service on behalf of every child of the Cleveland Municipal School District has become a source of hope and foundation for academic achievement today, and for the future of public education in Cleveland. I wish Ms. Bennett and her family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as she journeys onward from here.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RETIRED  
NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS  
JUDGE MATTHEW J. JASEN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2005, as New York's highest court prepared to sit outside of Albany for the first time in recent memory, I had occasion to recognize the professional career of retired New York State Court of Appeals Judge Matthew Jasen. During that extension of remarks, I was honored to take note of the many personal and professional accomplishments of Judge Jasen, in a manner consistent with the honors bestowed upon him by his successor colleagues on the Court of Appeals that day.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the House's attention to the passing of this great legal giant in New York State. Judge Matthew

J. Jasen entered into his eternal rest on February 4, 2006, at the age of 90.

Without seeking to be repetitive, Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that Judge Jasen was widely regarded as one of the sharpest legal minds of his era. Taking his seat on the Court of Appeals back in the days when that bench was still elected by popular vote statewide, Judge Jasen was the last western New Yorker to serve on the court, and his decisions were widely regarded as fair and impeccably researched. Rising to the position of senior associate judge before his mandated retirement in 1985, Judge Jasen was well known as a lawyer's judge—someone who knew the law, who understood both its limits and its full potential.

Following his retirement, Judge Jasen's career in law—even past his 80th birthday—continued to flourish and become all the more distinguished. His appointment by the United States Supreme Court as a special master to assist in determining the true border between Illinois and Kentucky along the Ohio River is but one example of how this keen legal mind continued its contribution to the jurisprudence of his State and Nation.

This past Sunday's Buffalo News editorialized the career of Judge Jasen, and it is that editorial with which I will close this extension of remarks.

On behalf of all Members of the House, I extend to the Jasen family our most heartfelt sympathy, as well as our appreciation for the many contributions made by Judge Matthew Jasen to the American way of life. Judge Jasen was the Court of Appeals' first Polish-American member, and it is fitting that I close this extension of remarks with the traditional Polish toast—"Sto Lat"—which literally translated means "100 years." While Judge Jasen could not give a chronological century to serve the people of this State and Nation, in effect he made good on that toast, and I am honored to pay tribute to his memory here today.

[From the Buffalo News, Feb. 12, 2006]

JASEN, GENERATION'S LEGAL STANDOUT

Sorrow flows at the passing of one of the most respected and skilled lawyers and judges of his generation. Former Court of Appeals Judge Matthew J. Jasen, who died Saturday at the age of 90, was both a brilliant legal mind and a respected adviser who guided the practice of law in this region and nationally.

Jasen was the first Polish-American and the last Western New Yorker to sit on the state's highest court, serving there for 18 years, becoming senior associate judge there before retiring at the legally mandated age of 70 (a mandate he upheld in writing the high court's opinion on its validity). He also was a highly regarded arbiter who, even in retirement, was called upon by the U.S. Supreme Court to work as a "special master" deciding such questions as the proper location of the Illinois-Kentucky boundary along the Ohio River. He was known for clear and concise opinions, and for his mentoring of lawyers and judges.

He was a forceful arguer and legal scholar whose fairly common early year dissents to Court of Appeals decisions in several areas

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